

Summer 2023



SKY VALLEY FOOD BANK

Fresh Press

Matching Campaign for Back to School!

Another matching campaign is underway! We have an anonymous donor who's agreed to match the first \$5,000 we receive for our emergency weekend food bags from now until Friday, September 15, 2023. Our donor wants to make sure that no child in Monroe goes hungry, and so do we!

When we learned back in 2011 that many of Monroe's school children were going hungry over the weekend, we started giving backpacks with 2 breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and 6 snacks to any child who might otherwise be going without. Over the years our program has grown to an average 270 bags per week, serving 7 schools. When you do the math, we're buying 21,600 cartons of milk, entrees, fruit, and oatmeal to get through the school year, not to mention the 64,800 snacks! That's 151,200 items we have to purchase! Our food bags will cost an average \$6.50 each, making the program run about \$70,000 per year. Luckily, you and our anonymous donor are here to help us get started on that!

You can double your donation by mailing in a check today, or by donating online (just be sure to click the button for the specific fund on the online form.) For every \$6.50 you donate, you will be feeding TWO children for the price of one!* Thank you to our anonymous donor and to all of you--our partners in making sure that no child goes hungry in Monroe!

*Make sure you check out the back page to see how far your donation can go!



OUR MISSION: TO KINDLY AND RESPECTFULLY PROVIDE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD IN OUR COMMUNITY.



Community Loaves: We're Breader Together



Like food pantries across the nation, donations can be a rollercoaster. Some days we are bursting at the seams, and other days we are struggling to have enough. Lately we have seen a decline in our bread donations, an item we like to keep as a staple for those must-have PB & J's and yummy, melty grilled cheeses.

Enter Community Loaves. Community Loaves is a 501(c)(3) non-profit grassroots bread and cookie home-based volunteer brigade, baking and delivering Honey Oat sandwich loaves and Energy Cookies in support of local food banks.

We currently have one baker that has been baking 8 loaves and 32 cookies every other week. These have been flying off our shelves! We are looking for more volunteer bakers to add to the Community Loaves team, and it could be you!

The recipes and supplies will be provided to you after you register as a Community Loaves volunteer. You can register by visiting their website: www.communityloaves.org.

We KNEAD you!

Food Bank Garden: Fruits Of Their Labor

Each year our food bank has been blessed with thousands of pounds of fresh, organic produce grown in the Julia V. Morris Food Bank Garden. The garden, adjacent to our building, is tended by a group of 14 volunteers who spend their free time planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting healthy, delicious foods for our food bank families. To date, they have donated nearly 600 lbs. of romaine lettuce, bok choy, herbs, green beans, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, tomatillos, cucumbers, raspberries, blueberries, and soon to be, garlic and carrots!

We can't tell you enough how much this garden means to us by allowing us to provide such healthy food options to our community. Our customers are always delighted to know that some of the produce provided to them is grown here on site. Thank you to the garden volunteers, and to the community who supports this beautiful garden.

If you are interested in the garden, stop by on a Tuesday or Saturday morning! You can also visit their Facebook page, "Friends of JVM Food Bank Garden."





Summer Staff: Paige, Kylie, Connor, Brock & Becky

This summer has been one for the history books! The hard work, fun, and laughter has made these last couple of months so enjoyable. But sadness is starting to loom. Out of state college has already taken our dear Kylie, now Brock and Connor are on their way out of state too. It has been a joy to work with these three, and we wish them the best of luck!



Kylie~ "I have loved the last two years of serving at the food bank. The staff, volunteers, donors, and customers are unforgettable. There is truly no place like it, and I will always remember it fondly."

Connor~ "In the time that I've served at the food bank I've managed to get to know people in the community and make memories with the wonderful staff and our amazing clients. Working at the food bank has been a magnificent experience."

Brock~ "Once I got hired on at the FB, I thought it would just be a job to keep me busy before I left for college. But it helped me make friendships with people that are a decade, or two, or three, and even more older than me. The friendships I made in my short time here were because of the great environment and energy every single day. I want to say thank you to everyone who made my time there great!"



We are happy to welcome Paige back this month. She will pick up where Kylie left off by being our customers' first point of contact, making sure our community partner donation barrels & coin jars are picked up, and working with our weekend food program. And, we would like to extend a special thank you to Becky, who has stepped into the warehouse role while Kristi is on vacation. We couldn't handle this transition without her.

Staff Spotlight: Jen Reasoner

Jen just celebrated her eighth year here at the food bank. She runs the Index Mobile Food Bank, coordinates all the drivers, handles the Grocery Rescue program, and manages the front office. When asked what her favorite part about working here was, she stated, "I have met so many great people here, some who I consider great friends and even family. It makes my job so much fun. Living in the upper Sky Valley and being able to serve not only in Monroe, but also in Index is really special to me."

Jen's hobbies include spending time in her yard with her husband and two Welsh Corgis, spending time with her family, and even traveling thousands of miles to see concerts in a different city and state! She is very much looking forward to seeing the food bank grow in the coming years. Jen brings so much joy, laughter, energy, and efficiency to her job, and we all love working with her. Thank you, Jen, for your dedication to the FB!





19,195 pounds of food collected at the Fair Food Drive, benefitting the Snohomish County Food Coalition!

DID YOU KNOW?

In the first six months of 2023 our food bank has seen a significant increase in new families needing our services. The same time last year, we had 216 new families walk through our doors. This year that number has climbed to 327!

Each food distribution brings more new families needing our help.

Please help us keep feeding the hungry families in Sky Valley by donating today!

Your donation could provide food bags for :

- \$26 - one child for a month!
- \$162.50 - 25 children for a week!
- \$260 - one child for the school year!
- \$1755 - all 270 children for one week!
- \$Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to Sky Valley Food Bank and mail to:
P.O. Box 724
Monroe WA 98272

BRIGHAM YOUNG

Sky Valley Food Bank
233 Sky River Parkway
P.O. Box 724
Monroe, WA 98272

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Phone:
360-794-7959

Email:
endhunger@svfoodbank.org

Website:
www.svfoodbank.org

